Equal Rights

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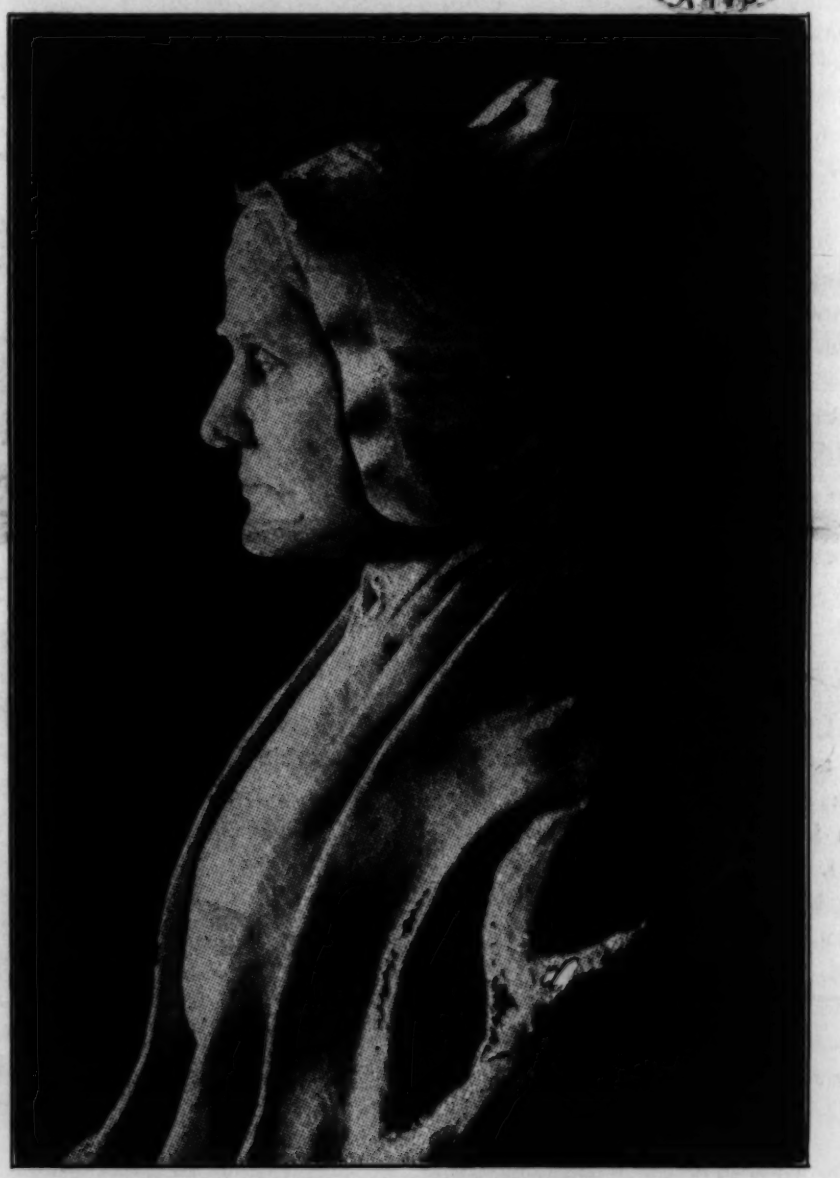

LUCRETIA MOTT

Founder of the Equal Rights Movement in America, after whom the Amendment now pending in Congress is called.

Born January 3, 1793. Died November 11, 1880.

Feminist Notes

What Spain Is Doing

SPAIN proves to be wideawake and progressive in regard to feminism. Three women have been elected to the Madrid Town Council. These are Dona Maria Echarri, Vizcondesa de Llanteno and Dona Elisa de Calonge. Nor is this all. The town of Cuatretondeta, in the district of Cocentina, has elected the first woman mayor in the history of the country. She is Dona Maria Perez Molla, a school teacher by profession. Dictator Primo de Rivera, who has conferred municipal suffrage on unmarried women, widows and women heads of families, has declared himself a feminist. Only Belgium has done more for suffrage than Spain among the Latin countries.

Pushing On In France

THE fight for the ballot is being actively pushed in France. At the General Assembly of the National Council of French Women on the 21st of November at Lyons resolutions were adopted declaring that the council will assist the Government in preparing the polling lists at the municipal elections in 1925, since the Premier has raised the objection that granting municipal suffrage to women will lengthen the lists and make the task of preparing them too great. The council further decided that the resolutions be sent to Premier Herriot and a delegation be sent to confer with him.

Educational Work Recognized

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, Member of Parliament, has been appointed parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Education, the first woman in Great Britain to attain that position. Before her election to Parliament she had been vice-president of the Association of Education Authorities in Scotland. She is especially remembered for her aid in bringing equality in educational opportunity to poorer children in the rural districts of Scotland.

Eight-Hour Day Established by Law

THE eight-hour day in British Columbia will probably go into effect early in 1925, despite the fact that numerous industries are asking for exemption. A. M. Manson, Minister of Labor, declares that he has no intention of allowing such exemptions as will conteract the spirit of the new law and render it ineffective.

This law is of especial interest to feminists, as it appears to support the claim that "welfare" legislation need not necessarily rest on a sex basis, but that it may, if the electorate so desires, apply equally to all those engaged in the processes of production and distribution.

Equality In Poverty

THE Reichstag of Germany has finally provided that the Government's unemployment doles to women shall be the same as those paid unemployed men. Heretofore women have received 20 per cent. less.

What We Are Outgrowing

From Time and Tide
(Dec. 3)

THE direction in which our grandmothers were, perhaps, more carefully schooled than any other * * * was in the doctrine of the unimportance of all matters pertaining to the female. Women's work never mattered; it was not in fact work, but just feminine frippery. The health and training of babies was classed along with hat trimming, cake making and social functions as women's work. Men's work on the other hand was real work; the very words had a different ring.

This piece of schooling was an essential one. A society which expected its women never to think of or for themselves, but to be docile, meek, obedient and subservient to their lords and masters,, had obviously to train them, and train them very carefully, for their part. The baby girl started as egotistical, as self-opinionated, as independent-minded as the baby boy, and it took all the social pressure of twenty years to turn her into the accepted model of a Victorian wife. * * * Slaves are made, not born.

The curious thing is, that whereas we have now lost most of the Victorian points of view, this one still clings to us tightly. Because her grandmother was for obvious purposes carefully educated to believe that what she wanted could not matter, the modern woman in nine cases out of ten continues to hold the same belief.

China Comes To The Fore

A BANK, completely staffed and financed by women, to promote employment of Chinese women and to encourage them in saving, has been organized by prominent Chinese women of Shanghai. Women employes are being sent to a bank training school.

A Start Made In Mexico

A BILL for woman suffrage will be introduced in the Senate of Mexico by Senator Vito Alessio Robles, according to a report from Mexico City. A petition for suffrage has been presented to the Senate by Senorita Emelida Carillo of Nogales Sonora, who stated therein that women want to participate with men in the rights that belong to them.

When Discretion Is Needed

THE old myth about the inability of women to keep secrets has been given another blow, this time in the United States Senate. Miss Cora Ruvin has been named secretary of the Foreign Relations Committee . The post is of the most confidential nature, since all treaties and other State papers pass through the secretary's hands.

Philadelphia Coming Along

PHILADELPHIA is by no means slow to join the equal rights procession. It has achieved the distinction of sending the first woman to the Pennsylvania State Senate. The new Senator is Mrs. Flora M. Vare, widow of Senator Edward A. Vare, late political boss of the Philadelphia Republican organizatoin. Mrs. Vare is reported to be "a great lover of the outdoors, especially of horseback riding." She will have an opportunity in the State Senate to ride rough-shod over many old prejudices and abuses. The average male Pennsylvania solon, especially from Philadelphia, prefers being led or ridden to riding. Mrs. Vare has the opportunity to lead to better things.

Oppose Repeal of Equal Pay Law

VARIOUS agencies in New York State, chief among them the Woman's Party, are vigorously opposing the repeal of the Equal Pay Law for Teachers that was enacted at the last session of the New York Legislature.

So far, the school boards, that are almost wholly made up of men, have evaded this law on the ground that it would "drive red-blooded men from the school service if women received equal pay with men." Now these chivalrous gentlemen desire to repeal the law altogether, according to a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Associated School Boards and Trustees of New York State at Syracuse.

The importance of the Lucretia Mott Amendment is well exemplified by this episode. After winning out in one legislature the women of New York are faced with the possibility of having their work undone by a subsequent session.

Lucretia Mott—1793-1880

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO years ago today, on the 3d of January, 1793, a child was born on the little island of Nantucket who was destined to be one of America's most famous women. This child was Lucretia Coffin, known after her marriage to James Mott as Lucretia Mott.

At the time when Lucretia Mott was born the idea that women might potentially be the equals of men was unheard of. Even those friends of humanity who, like Rousseau, preached with passionate fervor the doctrine of the rights of man, found it unthinkable that woman should be included in their program. Always she was supposed to serve the needs of her virile mate in some humble capacity, and only through her service to man was she regarded as obeying the dictates of Deity. Among the Friends, however, girls even in 1793 were permitted considerable latitude in opportunity. The adherents of this faith believed men and women to be equally endowed by the Creator with intelligence and virtue. In this they stood practically alone. The fact that Lucretia Mott was born of Quaker parents and was therefore permitted an opportunity to develop her genius probably accounts in some degree for the wide influence that she had upon her time.

Graduating from school at the age of 15, she became a teacher and at the age of 18 married James Mott. Their long married life of over half a century is an inspiring picture of what marriage on a basis of equality can be. As wife and mother Mrs. Mott fulfilled her duties so admirably that those who attacked her for her opinions never ventured to imply that she was personally deficient in the feminine virtues. She took care of her five children, one son and four daughters, herself, and was a model housekeeper. She did not, however, find her pleasure in embroidery, gaiety and bric-a-brac, but instead studied and read; then, when her children reached years of competence, entered the great field of public service which has made her name renowned.

Her first call was to work in the anti-slavery movement. She was sent as a delegate, with her husband, to the Anti-Slavery Congress which met in London on June 12, 1840, and it was there that she first beheld the vision of Equal Rights. During the remainder of her life she was the mainstay of the feminist cause, giving help and encouragement in every possible way and wherever it was most needed. She presided at numerous feminist conventions, and at the age of 86 spoke at the Woman's Suffragè Convention in Rochester.

Lucretia Mott may be regarded as the founder of the Equal Rights movement in America, and for that reason the Equal Rights Amendment now pending in Congress is called after her.

The New Year, which promises so much in the extension of Equal Rights to women, opens fittingly with the birthday of this remarkable woman. Her children and all the children of mankind may well rise up and call her blessed.

The Case Against

By Elizabeth Abbott

Excerpts from an article which appeared in Opportunity

IT would be well to remember that internationally as well as nationally there is a wide divergence of view as to the benefits of so-called "protective" legislation.

The feminist view is opposed to all differential treatment for women in industry. We believe that what is called "protection" for women in industry can only be logically supported on the assumption that industry is normally a function of the male and that, therefore, women, like non-adults, are only to be permitted to work for wages at special hours, under special supervision, and subject to special restrictions by the Legislature. That view we reject, not merely on the ground that it involves an unwarrantable interference with the liberty of the individual, but because it also closes avenues of training and employment to women, encourages employers to pay them lower occupational rates on the ground of increased "welfare" charges, and delays, rather than hastens, the betterment of conditions throughout industry, irrespective of sex.

The Washington Maternity Convention (not yet ratified by Great Britain) makes it illegal to employ a woman for six weeks before or after her confinement, and obliges the employer to keep the job open for her for a practically indefinite period during any illness arising out of pregnancy. What employer will readily continue to take on or retain married women workers with such conditions hanging over his head, unless because of these conditions he *can get them very cheap?* This Convention, however kindly and well meant, would place a far-reaching handicap on the employment of married women. It should be at the individual woman's discretion whether she continue to carry on her job; her return to work should depend on her actual state of health; and all legislation with regard to pregnancy should be on the lines, not of forbidding women to select their own work, but of providing for them such economic conditions as shall make it possible to give birth to their children without facing either ill-health or destitution.

Some may ask, "What of the child? It is noteworthy that in this country a high incidence of infantile mortality does not necessarily coincide with a high percentage of married women in industry. It is highest in the mining districts, where the women are not in factory employment. The latest returns also show that our shamefully high maternal mortality among the working class is principally due to insufficient or unskilled attendance at childbirth.

The results of the ratification of the Recommendation concerning the Protection of Women (and Young Persons) against Lead Poisoning and of the Convention concerning the use of White Lead in Painting would be to close the painting trade to women and probably bring about their dismissal from a large number of processes in which they are at present employed with very small risk.*

The Night-Work Convention will close automatically to women all industrial undertakings which involve a night shift. Night work generally carries with it special rates of pay. This Convention would divert from women every well-paid job that involved work at night.

The "protection" offered to the industrial woman by these Conventions is illusory. It appeases the public conscience, perhaps, but in the long run handicaps the woman, even when temporary and visible benefits may accrue in a certain number of cases.

Every law and regulation which emphasizes merely the *femaleness* of women is a step backward, and the old laws of that kind are slowly but surely disappearing. Every law and regulation which acknowledges the equal right of women and men to equal powers and responsibilities, pay and opportunity, protection and penalities, is a step forward. Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities *are the essential factors in raising the status of women in industry.*

*Last year 42,669 women who were working in "dangerous trades," many of them involving the use of lead compounds, were medically examined. There were 37 cases of poisoning and 4 deaths. Among the 204,839 males similarly examined there were 461 cases of poisoning and 31 deaths; a very much higher percentage.

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

The Frightful Difficulty

"A CONSTITUTION CAN BE BUILT," says the great Carlyle in his *French Revolution,* "Constitutions enough *à la Sieyes:* but the frightful difficulty is that of getting men to come and live in them." Any casual reader of the Constitution of the United States, unaware of the true inwardness of the situation, would infer that in this enlightened country men and women were equal before the law and that sex could not be invoked to bar any individual from his or her inalienable rights of citizenship.

Article XIV of the Constitution specifically states:

> "Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

In spite of the exact and explicit terminology contained in Article XIV, apparently guaranteeing equal rights of citizenship to all "persons" born or naturalized in the United States, an additional amendment to the Constitution was necessary to extend even so fundamental a right as that of the franchise to approximately one-half the "citizens" of the Union. This because, in their unconscious and time-honored arrogance, men assumed the words "person" and "citizen" to apply to their own sex alone, leaving the female of the species in a perpetual state of exclusion from the various constitutional privileges and immunities demanded on such high grounds for themselves. In the Susan B. Anthony Amendment a single correction, relating exclusively to the right of franchise, was made to this extraordinary interpretation of generic terms.

No longer can the right of citizens of the United States to vote be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Here, however, in the reading of the Constitution the bi-sexual interpretation of the words "person" and "citizen" ceases. The male parenthesis everywhere else obtains.

THE intent and purpose of the Lucretia Mott Amendment is to settle once and for all the scope and meaning of these momentous words. Shall "person" and "citizen," as used in the Constitution of the United States, continue to carry their exclusively male implication, or shall sex as a bar to constitutional guarantees be stricken out? When we start out magnificently with a preamble, "We the people of the United States," shall "people" signify the male citizenry alone or shall it include both men and women?

The very fact that the Federal Suffrage Amendment was necessary to eliminate sex as a barrier to the franchise indicates conclusively that a further amendment is required if women are to enjoy equally with men the privileges and immunities guaranteed to all citizens under the Constitution.

Stated concretely, the demand of the National Woman's Party is that in the reading of the Constitution generic terms such as "person," "citizen" and "people" shall no longer signify exclusively men, but that women shall henceforth be included in the practical interpretation of these words.

That there should be any opposition to so just, straightforward and even philological a demand would seem impossible, and yet considerable groups of people, in the generic sense, look upon the Equal Rights Amendment with horror and dismay. To regard woman as a human being, a "person," a "citizen," an implicit unit in the mass of the "people," and not exclusively as an organ of sex, cut off from the immunities and privileges of the Constitution because of her gender, seems to them not only a malign and dangerous attitude of mind, but an actual defiance of Deity. All of which is perhaps not so surprising when we recall that a short time since women were denied the privilege of even having souls.

By Act of Legislature

By Angela Oakes

WHEN Mrs. Jones reached the landing on the second flight of stairs she stopped, wondering if she could go on. The reek of the coal-gas in the dark, dimly lighted hall was so strong it made her breath come in spasms. She could feel it permeating her whole body, her eyes, her nose, her lungs. She could taste it in her mouth and kept swallowing to get rid of it. Her head felt like bursting and her heart labored in a heaving chest. Clinging to the bannister with a mottled hand she turned her eyes upward. Still two flights and a half more to the garret room under the eaves where she lived. Thank heaven, there would be no coal-gas there, for the boarded-off corner of the attic that she occupied was not connected with the furnace. She could creep in with her clothes on under the filthy bed covering and sleep without suffocation as the cold dawn came.

Almost every morning when she came home, a little after 6 o'clock, there was coal-gas incident to the economical activities of the furnace man, but today it was worse than usual.

A weariness that was numbing in its profundity enveloped the consciousness of the woman. She must go on, but how? Her knees responded with sharp, startling pains as she began once more to lift one foot slowly after the other to the next step upward. It was probably house maid's knee, a fellow "char" had advised her, the result of her work in the office building where she was on her knees every night scrubbing the endless corridors. How she resented this work! How she hated it, after her nice little upstanding news business from which she had been driven out by the law.

SHE kept brooding upon it off and on, most of the time when she was not asleep—this misfortune that had happened to her. Before the no-night-work law for women went through she had had charge of the news stall on the ground floor of the building where she now charred. She had sold magazines, papers, cigars, cigarettes, chocolates, chewing gum, and so on, to those who pursued their callings in the great building during the night. Her hours had been the same as now—from 7 in the evening to 6 o'clock the following morning, but what a different life!

Good-natured men would often give her a nickel or a dime for a 2-cent paper and not wait for the change. Her building, as she called it, she had worked there so many years, housed a metropolitan morning daily, and some of the reporters had known her a long time. "Mother Jones" they called her, and would sometimes make little jokes she didn't understand at her expense.

"How's the strike?" they would ask, and "Why the high price of coal?" and other cryptic questions. In point of fact, in her palmier days she had strongly resembled the redoubtable little labor leader. Short and plump, with snow-white hair and plenty of "pep," as the boys termed it, she was a genial and heartening figure back of her piles of papers and other treasured stores. Many a crisp bill had come into her hands previously at Christmas time. But when the no-night-work law went through everything changed. No "female" could be employed in the business world after 10 o'clock at night, so at the age of 63, after sixteen years of a steady job, she was turned away.

SHE would never forget it, not as long as she lived, her feeling when she learned that she must go. All of her little wares—the cigarettes in their neat packages, the cigars—she knew the names and the prices of them all; the peppermints, the chocolates, the papers—they had seemed almost her own. And now to leave them to other hands, to go away from the cheer and companionship of the bright, warm lobby and scrub floors alone upstairs. It was nice of the manager after the catastrophe to give her the job, but it was hideous, unbelievable, that she should have to accept such degradation. It would perhaps have been different if she hadn't been faithful to the news business, if she had been derelict in duty, but she had only been late twice and missed three nights in the whole time. The manager had been sorry, genuinely sorry, but he couldn't do anything—it was the law.

"Too bad, Mrs. Jones," he had said when she had broken down at the pronouncement. "Too bad; we'll never get a boy that will be as faithful as you. We've taken on Toney Bellanco in your place. You remember, the boy who used to run route 27?" Yes, she remembered him well. She used to give him coppers for his nickels and dimes when he was but a little lad and sold papers after school. And an occasional bar of chocolate around the holidays, for which she religiously paid the full price. He was a pretty boy, but weak. She could hardly believe he was already 18 years old. He, too, had called her Mother Jones.

"He'll never be as faithful as you," Mr. Tascar had said. "We'll all miss you, but the law's the law."

"Why, oh why, did they pass it?" she had wailed.

"For the protection of women's morals and the welfare of the race, I'm told," he had drawled in reply.

SHE remembered just how he said it—so slowly, as he sat in his chair by the desk with the tips of his fingers pressed together and his eyes on them. Then in a flash looking at her and clearing his throat, "It's a damned shame, Mrs. Jones. A lot of interfering knownothings that think they can bring the millenium by act of Legislature, and create chaos instead." He had pressed a dollar bill in her hand when she had turned to go, he had known her such a long, long time.

She remembered it all so clearly, so clearly. It was the last bright spot in her life. Then the sun had gone down, and since then every night she had been charing, charing. There was no law against that. Perhaps the men who run things didn't want jobs scrubbing floors. No wonder with what a charwoman was paid. She had had to give up her good room in a decent house and come to live in Green street in an attic room. It was a street whose very name was a disgrace. She had mentioned it once to a fellow-worker and the woman had looked at her askance.

The doctor who had come to see her when she was down sick had asked her if she knew what kind of a house she was in. She knew, but what with sickness and old age coming on and no hope left she couldn't afford anything different. Often she wished quite simply and sincerely, without any passion, that she would die. As she went on now, step by step up the stairs, she hoped in a curiously impersonal fashion that her heart would give way. There was nothing more to live for since the business had been taken from her.

AS she reached the third floor a door was thrown open violently in the hallway and a young man hurtled out. He was only partially dressed, suspenders hanging down over his hips, no collar, in his shirt sleeves. A volley of obscene, abusive language in a shrill tone, and a

shower of clothes followed him. "Cat," he muttered, "just because she thought I didn't pay her enough." He picked up the disheveled clothes from the floor and looked at his watch.

"Like as not it's ruined, falling like that." Shakily he held it to his ear. He was still somewhat intoxicated.

The growing day through the dirty skylight disclosed the man clearly to Mrs. Jones' eyes. It was the boy who had taken the place after her at the Sentinel news-stand.

A feeling of impotent rage possessed the woman's heart. He was neglecting the business, galivanting around the town, making Mr. Tascar trouble.

Then all of a sudden it came to her what the manager had said about the law that had put her out of her job. "For the protection of women's morals and the welfare of the race," he had said.

The irony of the thing pricked her. "Whose morals need more protecting," she thought, "his or mine?"

She began to laugh, convulsedly, 'till the battered feather in her shapeless hat fluttered like a bird with a broken wing. It was so terrible, so awful—she wrung her hands—it was just absolutely funny.

The young man turned, for the first time seeing her, angrily conscious of the untowardness of his appearence. He stopped in the act of fastening his collar.

"See here, old woman, you mind your business. Go on to bed; you're drunk!"

For a moment they faced one another squarely. Not the slightest look of recognition came into his face. He had forgotten her with the rest. She was no longer Mother Jones, but a char. Wearily, without another word, she went on up.

What Is Feminism?

By Sue S. White

THE candidacy of another woman to the seat in Congress formerly held by her husband revives the discussion among feminists of the question whether this habit of passing on the honors of deceased men to their widows is a phase of real feminism or a stupid reversion from feminism.

There are feminists who, when they hear of such an instance, shrug their shoulders and say it really doesn't mean anything from a feminist viewpoint to have a woman honored as the widow or wife of a man who has been similarly honored. In fact, I rather suspect some of us in our hearts resent such encroachments of these "outsiders" upon positions which the true feminist would hold for the sisterhood of true feminists.

Is it because that sometimes the simon-pure feminist—she who is proud to be called such, she who draws her mantle about her closely— means simply that she stands for women who think as she does—for the women who are aware of their feminism as she is aware of hers?

If we are to stand for women, are we not to stand for all women? Are we not to cultivate a vision broad enough to see the diffusion throughout life of the same leaven that savours our own philosophy?

Is there not a feminism of the collective unconscious which, quite independently of feminist organizations, is working toward the conscious aim of these organizations?

There is the old story of the king who exclaimed: "The State—I am the State" —and so sometimes one meets a feminist whose attitude might be expressed in similar vein: "The woman movement—I am the woman movement."

As a matter of fact, is not the woman movement being worked out in the life and in the thought of collective womanhood; or, to be more accurate, in the life and in the thought of collective humanity?

Do we not often hear from out-of-the-way places of things that "just happen," marking an advance for women—things which cannot be traced directly to any organized effort anywhere? Is it not in our hearts, in our blood—this demand, this wish, this urge to our share of life? What if it has been buried deep, hidden away, as so many other human powers have lain dormant? Is it not bound to come forth, and are the feminists who are aware of their feminism any less its instruments than they who are not so aware of its play upon them? To the simon-pure feminist might it not be said, "You did not start the movement; it started you. You do not keep it going; it keeps you going?"

And its power—is it not terrific, where it is aware of itself? And perhaps just as terrific where it is still unaware of itself?

If the election of widows and wives to places held by their husbands is looked upon as a reversion from feminism, then the reversion proves the power of the movement.

But is it that? Is it not rather a straight-out phenomenon of true feminism? Is it not a recognition of the part the wife has played in the work, the career, which culminated in the place which the husband held, and is not this a gain for women? We ask that woman's contribution to the partnership of marriage be recognized economically; yet we know that quite often men and women do not live merely to build up bank accounts, and there may be no economics in the partnership on either side to be recognized. If the partnership be one of management, of mere climbing ahead, of service, of devotion to ideals, let us be glad that in a few cases, at least, the woman's contribution may be recognized by inheritance in the end.

This is what I see in the passing on of honors to the wives and widows of public servants. I see progress in it. Perhaps it is because I still hold a cheerful philosophy even while assuming to be something of a feminist.

Equal Rights Amendment

By Frank Putnam

Editor's Note: Mr. Putnam is a newspaper man and the husband of Mabel Raef Putnam, who was chairman of the Wisconsin Branch of the National Woman's Party.

THE Equal Rights Amendment does not call for an appropriation nor necessitate additional public offices to be supported by taxpayers. It does not diminish the legal rights of men. Its sole effect is to grant women equal property and personal rights with men under all of the laws of the United States. It is a new charter of human freedom, granted to the fifty-five million female citizens of the Republic.

The Equal Rights Amendment grants them legal rights commensurate with the legal responsibilities imposed upon them by the Nineteenth Amendment, and makes them, equally with their fathers, brothers and sons, fully responsible and competent citizens of the Republic.

The Senator or Representative who opposes submission of the Equal Rights Amendment to the States for ratification either deems women incompetent to exercise the natural rights of freemen or he wishes to deny them these rights.

Attorney General Replies to Inquiries

MRS. EMMA TUCKER KENYON, acting under the advice of Mrs. Burnita Shelton Matthews, Legal Research Secretary of the National Woman's Party, has recently submitted a series of questions to Attorney General Carpenter of Rhode Island, which are directly to the point and which bring out facts that are of universal interest to women.

Both the questions and the Attorney General's answer are herewith presented as an illuminating commentary on the status of women under the Constitution:

"1. Do Rhode Island laws in practice conform to the principle of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which declares that 'The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex?'

"2. Are the voting rights of a married woman and a married man equally restricted or abridged by the property qualification as affected by dower and courtesy?

"3. Is it possible that a married woman's right to vote may be denied or abridged in Rhode Island owing to the fact that she cannot acquire domicile for voting purposes in her own right as a married man can?

"4. What is the remedy to remove existing discriminations against the married woman voter, if there are such discriminations, *so that the Nineteenth Amendment may be enforced in Rhode Island?*"

In a letter to Mrs. Kenyon, the Attorney General said:

"In reply to the questions which you have recently put to me in behalf of the National Woman's Party, I can say that, while in theory married women have the same voting privileges and duties as men (see Chapter 6, Sec, 4, General Laws of Rhode Island, 1923), in practice the effect of the law as it works out is such as to create certain discriminations against married women.

"The most striking of these is in connection with the situation which is generally stated as follows: A married man can vote on his wife's property, whereas a married woman cannot vote on her husband's property. The reason for this is that when a man marries and acquires a curtesy right in his wife's property, if its value is over $134, he becomes thereby a 'property voter,' so-called, possessed of voting rights which the ordinary registry voter does not have, whereas when a woman marries and thereby acquires her dower rights, those rights are not an estate of such a nature as to make her a property voter, no matter how great may be the value of her dower rights.

"It is also the case that, unless the courts should decide that a wife in view of the amendment can acquire separate domicile for voting purposes, a married woman is now in danger of losing her voting rights, or of having them restricted, under circumstances in which a man would not lose any voting rights.

"These would appear to be discriminations which can be corrected by statutory enactment. They are not discriminations as such, but the adverse effect is brought about by legal situations which, it would seem, can be readily changed by the Legislature.

"Very truly yours,

"HERBERT L. CARPENTER,

"Attorney General."

Correspondence

Göttingen, Germany.

Dear Editor:

I am in this town for a week only after an absence of 15 years, but my visit has already shown me how international the feminist movement is. A nice little Hausfrau said, to me last evening at a university soirée, "We have come to our senses since the war. If we wish peace, we must put men in their place and see that they stay there!" Pretty good for one brought up on the three K's. Nicht wahr?

EVELYN KAYE.

Manchester, England.

Dear Editor:

Yesterday, for the first time, I saw a copy of your excellent paper, EQUAL RIGHTS, in a friend's room. It gave me an extraordinary sense of pleasure, for all my life I have resented the inferiority implied in "protection" for women. I am perhaps in a better position than many to know what kind of protection men supply for those they do not consider their equals. My life has been spent working among mill hands. These girls are exploited by men at their work and after work are still more in danger from their "superiors." * * * To my mind the principle thing a girl needs to be protected from is her alleged protector! Yours faithfully,

ALDYTHE E. GILLETT.

Washington, D. C.

Dear Editor:

I am glad to see in EQUAL RIGHTS an appreciation of Dr. Clara Ludlow. Dr. Ludlow was the first woman to do distinguished scientific work in the War Department. Her Bulletin No. 4 was the only thing that the doctors had as a guide for one branch of preventive medicine in the great war. General Gorgas was the man that brought her great work to public notice.

CARRIE HARRISON.

(*Officer of the Government Workers' Council of the Woman's Party.*)

Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Editor:

May I suggest that it would be of interest to your readers to have a short digest of the "welfare" laws? To hear the opposition talk one would suppose that women now enjoyed all sorts of legal benefits. How many States protect maternity? How many have an eight-hour day? How many pay adequate mothers' pensions? I should be glad to be informed on these points, as with the naked eye I can only see where women are discriminated against under the law.

As ever,

ELIZABETH WATKINS.

Richmond, Va.

Dear Editor:

I feel in reading EQUAL RIGHTS each week that our movement is indeed a most fundamental one. We are bound to succeed, but, of course, it will take time, and we cannot get what we want in a minute.

Sincerely,

SOPHIE MEREDITH.

(*Virginia Chairman of the Woman's Party.*)

New York City.

Dear Editor:

I am glad to learn through EQUAL RIGHTS of all the activities at our National Headquarters. I am trying to raise money for the furnishing of the Headquarters and am working particularly on the furnishing of the library at Headquarters. Since Mrs. Belmont has so generously given us that exceedingly valuable feminist library, the books should be properly housed. I want to raise $5000 for the library furnishings, as these rooms must be beautifully done.

Sincerely,

GRACE HOFFMAN WHITE.

(*Member of National Headquarters Furnishing Committee.*)

From The Press

Women and a Rear- Admiral

New York Evening World,
December 15th.

REAR-ADMIRAL FISKE, even at the risk of becoming a national pest, is determined to maintain his lead as the country's champion jingo. Being a "first-rate fightin' man," and a "he-man," and something of all the things which mean militarist in certain circles, he has no patience with plans for the limitation of armaments or the substitution of adjudication for war. Naturally he is annoyed with the women who are temperamentally incapable of appreciating the charms of wholesale slaughter. Speaking of the faults of women he says:

"The fault most commonly found is a seemingly insatiable desire to interfere in matters they do not understand. War they understand least."

That is one of the common fallacies of "he-men." And one of the silliest. The woman who sees her boy go forth to battle, and who waits and watches through the nights for a possible messenger of death; who sees her boy come back crippled and wrecked for life with all his fair prospects faded; who pays, and pays, and pays, that men may kill, and profiteers may steal, and patrioteers may glibly talk, knows more of war than a Rear-Admiral can tell her. The poet never wrote a truer line than this: "The greatest battles that ever were fought were fought by the mothers of men." There was more suffering, more slaughtering among the women of the world during the late war than by the soldiers in the field.

Women know nothing about war! There are women in America today who can tell the Rear-Admiral more about war than he has ever known. For war means more than the clashing of armed forces.

Women's Activities

Philadelphia Ledger,
December 6th.

WOMEN who used to be content to curl a poodle's hair are now running bookstores, or clothing shops, or tearooms, or buying on commission, or making a good living as interior decorators—an excellent field of operation for the woman of refined and perceptive tastes.

It is indeed hard to see how any modern woman can find time hanging heavily on her hands with all there is to do.

It is quite impossible to restore the pre-Victorian definition of "gentility" for women which narrowly restricted the range of "ladylike" occupations.

"The worst hypochrondriacs of my acquaintance," said a Philadelphia woman with a wide circle of friends, "are those who have nothing to do.

"You might as well be dead and buried as to sit with folded hands while the world goes by and you are not a part of it.

"I know a man who has nothing to do but play golf. He is visibly and audibly growing old before his time. He feels out of the things that engage the busy men and women; it makes him miserable, and he takes it out of wife and children in a fretful unreasonableness."

What's In a Name?

From
The Nation.
December 24th.

WHEN a woman decides to keep her name after marriage she is frequently criticized for making so much ado about nothing; but when she seeks later to obtain a passport under her own name, or open an account in a conservative bank, or draw her pay from a Government job, her name suddenly becomes of the utmost importance to all the authorities; the State Department refuses her a passport, the president of the bank will not honor her signature, the Government department will not make out a check to so misguided and miscalled a female. Precedent has been upset, however, in the case of Miss Helena Normanton, English barrister, who was admitted as a member of the Middle Temple in 1919, a few hours after the enactment of the Sex Disqualification Removal Act. She was married in 1921 and continued to practice under her own name; but when, a year later, she was called to the bar, bitter opposition arose among serious legal authorities. The Joint Council of the Four Inns of Court solemnly sat upon the question for eight months or so and finally decided that Miss Normanton had a right to use her own name if she chose . Last September she applied, under her hard-won name, to the British Foreign Office for a passport. It was refused on grounds of public policy. She submitted a brief citing the arguments and precedents that had convinced the jurists of the Inns of Court. The Foreign Office considered the evidence and granted the passport. This will not, of course, alter the attitude of the American State Department which has refused passports in like cases, apparently for reasons of tender sentiment without reference to any law. But American precedent has been broken none the less, for the American consul in London has given Miss Normanton a visa and thus has planted the seal of the State Department of the United States on an unsanctified and improper "maiden" name.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to December 4, 1924, $1,281,358.47.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, December 4, 1924, to Dec. 12, 1924. (*Half of membership fees are retained by the State Headquarters. The half of these fees sent to National Headquarters is listed below*):

Mrs. Mildred J. Pollock, Cal.	$10.00
Mrs. Mary M. McClure, D. C.	15.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.	5.00
Mrs. Manolah Brennan, D. C.	25.00
Miss Nannie King, D. C.	5.00
Mrs. F. R. Lillie, Ill.	100.00
Miss Margaret Whittemore, Wis.	10.00
Mrs. Jean Green, Pa.	200.00
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	2.00
Total receipts, December 4, 1924, to December 12, 1924	$372.00
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to December 12, 1924	$1,281,730.47

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